

# The Cary Arboretum

of The New York Botanical Garden



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## East Meets West in Scientific Exchange

Text and Photos by Robin Parow

A heart-warming chorus of "Old Lang Syne" sung by Chinese and American botanists was the finale of a month-long tour of the United States by a botanical delegation from the People's Republic of China that included visits to the Cary Arboretum and the NYBG in the Bronx.

The 10 Chinese visitors who left for home June first unanimously agreed with their American hosts that their 15,000-mile coast-to-coast tour will result in an even greater degree of communication and cooperation between American and Chinese botanists in the future.

The visit was jointly sponsored by the Botanical Society of America and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. It reciprocated a May, 1978 program in which a delegation of 10 American botanists visited numerous research institutes and universities in the P.R.C. Dr. Thomas Elias, Assistant Director of the Cary Arboretum and a member of the Committee for scientific liaison with the P.R.C., participated in both the tour of China and the organization and planning of the Chinese botanists' visit here.



*Dr. Payne explains the Arboretum's grid mapping system to 2 members of the Chinese delegation.*

On May 9th, the group — accompanied by their translator and delegation secretary — arrived at the Arboretum and were greeted in the solar-heated Plant Science Building by Dr. Willard Payne and Dr. Elias. As energy-conscious people, the Chinese scientists expressed great interest in the mechanics of the building and the energy

conservation measures taken at Cary. They were particularly impressed with the large amount of work accomplished by the comparatively small staff at the Arboretum, thanks to American mechanization. The Cultural Revolution, which formally ended in 1975, left the Chinese 10 to 15 years

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## Arboretum Concert Series Underway

The Arboretum's music bowl once again was filled with classical harmonies as its second music season opened June 3 with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra performing works by Weiner, Hayden, and Schubert. Imre Pallo conducted.

A recent review by Eric Goldberg in the Poughkeepsie Journal called the Cary Arboretum "probably the most beautiful location at which the Hudson Valley Philharmonic has played."

A second concert on June 17th featured the

Hudson Valley Brass Quintet followed July 1st by an indoor piano recital by Timothy Vernon.

The two remaining concerts in this summer music series will include the Hudson Valley Dance Company and the Hudson Valley Philharmonic Scott Joplin Band on July 15th, and an indoor concert featuring the Filigree Chamber Group on July 29th.

Concerts begin at 4:00 p.m. and are followed by wine and cheese receptions. For more information, please call 677-5358.

## Garden Clubs at the Arboretum

Three important garden club groups held meetings at the Arboretum during June. Presidents of Dutchess County Chapters of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State met at the Arboretum, followed a week later by a gathering of the County Chairmen of District 3 of the Federated Garden Clubs. Both groups also enjoyed tours of the Arboretum grounds and facilities.

In early June, the Nine Partners Garden Club held a "Standard Flower Show" at Gifford House.



## East Meets West in Scientific Exchange

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behind the U.S. in the areas of biosystematics, plant physiology, genetics, biochemistry, and other areas requiring sophisticated technology. Indeed, part of the purpose of the visit was to introduce the botanists to new equipment and research procedures which allow American institutions to increase output with a minimum staff.

Since the Chinese are currently in the process of rebuilding their botanical gardens and arboreta, the group showed special interest in modern methods of record-keeping. They also expressed interest in the possibilities of importing selected species into China such as the sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), and various plants and trees that would be of medicinal importance to their compatriots.

The group's visit to the U.S. also included research for a projected 80-volume book on the flora of their country. Eleven volumes already have been published. Dr. Elias has proposed that these botanical publications be translated into English under the supervision of Dr. T. Koyama, a Curator of the Herbarium, The New York Botanical Garden.

A second proposal that was discussed with the visitors was the establishment of a cooperative research program in systematics and structural botany. The project would

focus on some of the higher plants occurring in both North America and China. To carry out this program, a Chinese botanist would be invited to work at the Cary Arboretum on a research project of mutual interest to both parties and their institutions.

The eight scientists who were members of the delegation are leaders of botanical societies and research institutes in their country. Most had visited the United States in the 1930's and '40's and seemed comfortably adaptable to the modern western

world. At Yale University, for example, they were treated to a Colonel Sanders fried chicken dinner, and at the Arboretum they each were given Cary sweat-shirts and buttons, which they immediately pinned onto their shirts. One botanist, Professor Wu Ching-Yi, had the name of a nephew he had never met who is a medical student at New York University. Both nephew and uncle finally met by pre-arrangement in the Bronx, where they toured the NYBG together. Under the leadership of Dr. Howard Irwin, President of the Garden, and Ghilleen



## Spring Planting: More than 300 Specimens

More than 300 trees and shrubs and masses of ferns have been planted in permanent homes on the Arboretum grounds since spring to increase the living plant collection.

Most of the plants were grown in the Arboretum's greenhouse/nursery complex on Route 82 and have now been placed out on the grounds according to long-range planting plans. The work was done by the Horticulture Department directed by Robert Hebb, in consultation with Carlton Lees, Senior Vice-President of the New York Botanical Garden.

One of the principal accomplishments of the spring planting program was the extension of the major "Tree Avenue" along Redwing Drive from Fowler Road to Filkins Bridge, in the lowland section of the Arboretum grounds. Thirty more matching pairs of shade trees were installed, including yellow-wood *Cladrastis lutea*, a native of the Smoky Mountains, and the English oak *Quercus robur*. Extension of the avenue west of the bridge along West Flagler Drive also has been started. Each matching pair of trees along the avenue is a different species. Ultimately, there will be nearly 100 species represented along this drive — a unique "living museum" of major trees for our area, and a feature not to be found in any other arboretum in the United States.

During the planting season major additions also were made to the birch collection east and west of Fowler Road, near the Leland Lovelace farmhouse. Specimen birches were planted on the uphill side of the roadway, while below Fowler Road a more densely planted forest of American, Asian, and

European birch has been started. These birches come from seeds collected in the wild on recent Arboretum expeditions in the United States and Asia, or from seeds obtained through the Arboretum's worldwide seed exchange program.

A grove of *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, the handsome Chinese tree that was once thought to be extinct, was planted in the lowland area just in time for the recent visit of a group of Chinese botanists. The visitors from the People's Republic of China were delighted to see "trees from home" on the Arboretum grounds. Across the road from the metasequoias, for purposes of contrast, Arboretum horticulturists have planted a grove of bald cypress, *Taxodium distichum*.

The spring planting program also included several unusual species which the Arboretum has acquired from China. Among these are the toon tree *Cedrella sinensis*, a relative of the tree of heaven, and *Euodia hupehensis*, a tree that produces large clusters of white blossoms in late summer that are particularly attractive to bees.

Something novel in the way of landscaping has been undertaken along the driveway that leads to the Plant Science Building, where there already is a native grove of black locust, *Robinia pseudoacacia*. These common trees have been underplanted with hemlocks, *Tsuga canadensis*, and Carolina silver bell, *Halesia carolina*, two specimens which are shade tolerant when they are young. As these species mature, the black locusts will be removed, thus substituting a new and more attractive grove for the older native one. Black locusts are difficult to eradicate

because they sprout root suckers in great quantities. To handle this problem without the use of herbicides, the trees will be girdled in mid-summer, when their root sprouting normally takes place.

On the south side of West Flagler Drive, in a field near Ham Creek, a grove of Osage orange trees *Maclura pomifera* have been planted. These trees, known for their large, rough-covered, inedible green fruit, are commonly used as shelter-belt planting in the Great Plains but are not frequently seen in this area.

During the past few months, important progress also was made toward completing the Fern Glen near Wappingers Creek. The newly built limestone cobble was planted with ferns that thrive on alkaline soil. These included a large collection of crested forms of the heart's tongue fern, ebony spleenwort, walking fern, and many others. In addition, masses of ferns were planted around the pond that has been built near the entrance to the Glen. These plantings include cinnamon, maidenhair, regal, interrupted, and goldie's ferns.

During the summer, young people from the Government-funded Youth Conservation Corps will construct trails and build boardwalks over the swampy sections of the Fern Glen, which is scheduled to be open for public tours in the fall.

In addition to the extensive spring planting program, the Horticulture Department also has completed landscape work at the main entrance to Gifford House and around the vehicle maintenance barn on Fowler Road.



Prance, Vice-President, the group was led through the conservatory, rose garden, rock and native plant gardens, the library, and the herbarium.

The crowded month-long series of meetings enabled the American and Chinese botanists to exchange information at scientific institutions in Washington, D.C. at Yale University, Cornell, University of Wisconsin, Michigan State University, University of Illinois, Missouri Botanical Garden and botanical institutions in the Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay area.

Throughout the visit emphasis was placed upon maintaining strong personal and scientific bonds that were established during the 1978 and 1979 exchange programs. There was enthusiastic agreement that the exchange visits are extremely productive and both groups expressed their deep gratitude to all who contributed to the total success of their respective visits.

*Chinese botanists look intently at research materials shown by Dr. Elias (left) in the Plant Science Building.*

## Invasion of the Little People

Passersby at the Arboretum during the week of May 21 may have rubbed their eyes in amazement at seeing 900 children taking part in the second annual children's "Paint-Off" under the direction of Dr. Peter A. Dykeman, Education Coordinator.

The children ventured through the "deep dark woods" and danced in the Arboretum's music bowl. They toured along the Wappingers Creek and sang traditional folk songs in the meadow. At the end of the program they assembled on the Gifford House lawn to paint what they had seen: Mother Nature, a troll guarding the Arboretum's stone bridge, two mimes in the

woods, a demonstration in maneuvering a dragonfly kite, and, of course, trees, leaves, flowers, and the special ingredients found in the Wappingers Creek such as crayfish, frogs, and bugs.

The five-day event, which was funded by a grant from the Dutchess County Arts Council, brought children and their accompanying teachers from 17 schools representing 8 Dutchess County School Districts. They left behind 900 paintings reflecting their impressions of "Nature." Of these works, 60 were exhibited in the Arboretum's Plant Science Building during the week of June 9.

*The mime at the "Great Paint-Off" tells a group of fascinated third graders why his name is "Twig".*

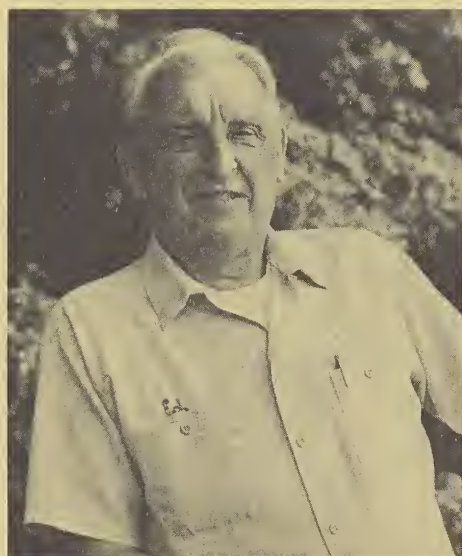
*Photo by Robin Parow*



### Anyone for Saturdays?

The Arboretum would like to open for visitors on Saturday afternoons (in addition to the present Sunday and Wednesday schedule). However, Saturday volunteers are needed to guide tours. If you can guide on Saturday, please call our Volunteer Office 677-5358.

## People at the Arboretum



*Ed Osika*

Ed Osika, Custodian . . . A man who wears many hats both at the Arboretum and at home, "Uncle Ed" is an irreplaceable friend and co-worker to the staff members in the Arboretum's Plant Science Building.

Born in Hudson, Pennsylvania, Ed moved to Watertown, New York after high school to play semi-pro baseball . . . He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force during World War II and was stationed in Europe as a radio operator and mechanic.

One visit to Millbrook after his return to the U.S. presented a turning point in Ed's life. The charm of the village, and the charm of a young woman he finally married, gave him good reason for making Millbrook his home. Before coming to the Arboretum in 1974, he worked 20 years for IGA Supermarkets and 4 years for the Millbrook Central School District. He played baseball with the Millbrook Legionaires and later played ball with the Colonial League, a professional team in Poughkeepsie.

At the Arboretum, in addition to keeping the Plant Science Building in tip-top form for the staff members and thousands of visitors that come through each year, he carries the Arboretum's mail and performs dozens of other services that help make the building a "home away from home." At various Arboretum functions, Ed's extra-curricular skills are called into play, from the art of mixing cocktails to flipping flapjacks.

Ed and his wife Jean have five children — Ellen, Sharon, Janet, Jim and Ed II — the youngest of the five who inherits his father's athletic interests and will begin college in September as a Physical Education student in Troy, New York.

Staff members at Cary consider Ed a walking barometer: for example, "We'll get six inches of snow tonight starting at 7:15." — And when Uncle Ed says it, that's the way it will be.



# More Wildlife Grants and Projects

The Arboretum's Wildlife Department, directed by Biologist Jay McAninch, has won renewal of grant support for two of its key programs. In addition, it has been asked to undertake two new projects on a contract basis.

Seligman & Latz, Inc., the New York-based corporation that operates beauty salons throughout the world, has renewed its support of the Arboretum's investigation of the use of balls of human hair as a deer repellent. The company's latest grant, in the amount of \$7,500, will help fund continuation of this research for another year.

Publications throughout the country have shown interest in this unusual project, which is based on the observation that browsing deer are repelled by the scent of human hair,

which is encased in small net bags that are hung on trees and shrubs. Latest publications to carry accounts of the work include the widely read magazines "Outdoor Life" and "Horticulture."

The Ulster County Fruit Growers' Association also has renewed its support for the Arboretum's research to find improved, non-chemical means of controlling the destructive pine and meadow voles in orchard environments. During the coming year, this research program will be expanded to include studies of both short-tailed and long-tailed weasels and kestrels, the common sparrow hawk.

The Orange and Rockland Utility Company has asked the Wildlife Department to study the efficiency of several proposed

herbicides for control of brush under its power lines. The Wildlife staff has also agreed to help the Connecticut State Deer Project with a variety of laboratory work, including study of deer incisors. Both projects are covered by contract. Several students from local colleges will work on these projects under Mr. McAninch's supervision.

The New York Chapter of the Wildlife Society recently elected Mr. McAninch its President for the coming year. The Society has more than 10,000 members internationally and 300 in New York State. Membership is limited to professionals who are actively engaged in wildlife research, management, or education.

## Around the Arboretum

### Hosse Watercolors on Exhibit

The watercolor exhibit of Hudson Valley landscapes and other nature scenes by Anje Hosse continues at Gifford House until August 5.

Ms. Hosse, a graduate of Hamburg University, Germany, has exhibited in group and one-woman shows in the mid-Hudson area. The show opening on June 10 drew an interested gathering of artists, collectors, and Friends of the Cary Arboretum.

### "Fall-for-All" Scheduled

Reserve the weekend of October 13-14 for the second annual Cary Arboretum "Fall-for-All"! The exhibits, demonstrations, homemade cider, food, tours, and Plant and Gift Shop items will be even bigger and better than last year.

### School Superintendents Visit

Superintendents of all School Districts in Dutchess County held their regular monthly meeting in June in the conference room of the Plant Science Building. Chairman of the group is Donald F. Rielle, District Superintendent for The State Education Department. The school officials met at Cary on the invitation of Dr. Payne, who also conducted them on a tour of the building and grounds.

### Innisfree Dance

Forty-five couples dined and danced in the beautifully decorated Innisfree mansion on June 1 to benefit the summer music programs of the Arboretum. The highly successful event was sponsored by the Arboretum's Music Committee, chaired by Mrs. Charles B. Podmaniczky.

### Film Award for Arboretum Documentary

"A Building in the Sun," the documentary film that explains the working of the Arboretum's solar heated, environmentally-designed Plant Science Building, won first place at the Renaissance Film Festival held in Turners Falls, Massachusetts.

The film festival is open to national competition. This was the fifth year that the film competition has been held.

"A Building in the Sun" is available for public showing. For more information, please call Janice Claiborne, 914-677-5343.

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